

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

- 1           1.       (Currently amended) A method of propagating changes to a table, comprising the  
2                    steps of:  
3                    ~~maintaining a first copy of the table at a first site;~~  
4                    maintaining a second copy version of the table at a second site;  
5                    ~~transmitting~~ receiving, at the second site, from a first site maintaining a first  
6                         version of the table, change data that identifies changes made to the first  
7                         copy version of the table ~~from the first site to the second site;~~ and  
8                    ~~updating, at the second site, the second copy version of the table at the second site~~  
9                         based on the change data to create an updated second copy version of the  
10                    table,  
11                    wherein at least one of the first copy version of the table and the updated second  
12                         copy version of the table have at least one non-overlapping relational  
13                         database column both before and after the step of updating.
  
- 1           2.       (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the non-overlapping  
2                    relational database column is present in the first copy version and missing in the  
3                    updated second copy version.
  
- 1           3.       (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the non-overlapping  
2                    relational database column is missing in the first copy version and present in the  
3                    updated second copy version.
  
- 1           4.       (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of  
2                    reconciling differences in the column shape of the first copy version and the  
3                    column shape of the second copy version for changes identified in the change  
4                    data.

1           5.     (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of  
2                 defining a top flavor describing overlapping relational database columns and non-  
3                 overlapping relational database columns of the table.

1           6.     (Currently amended) The method of claim 5, further comprising the steps of:  
2                 defining a first flavor describing the columns of the first ~~copy~~ version; and  
3                 ~~transmitting receiving, at the second site, from the first site,~~ an indicator of the  
4                 first flavor ~~from the first site to the second site~~.

1           7.     (Currently amended) The method of claim 5, further comprising the steps of:  
2                 defining a second flavor describing the columns of the second ~~copy~~ version; and  
3                 wherein the step of updating, at the second site, the second ~~copy~~ version of the  
4                 table ~~at the second site~~ based on the change data includes the step of  
5                 updating overlapping columns between the first flavor and the second  
6                 flavor in the second ~~copy~~ version of the table.

1           8.     (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein:~~ further comprising:  
2                 ~~the step of maintaining a first copy of the table at a first site includes the step of~~  
3                 maintaining an updatable snapshot at a laptop computer site, wherein [[;  
4                 and]]  
5                 the step of maintaining [[a]] the second copy version of the table at [[a]] the  
6                 second site includes the step of maintaining a master table at a master site.

1           9.     (Currently amended) A method of modifying a table to drop a first column and  
2                 add a second column, said table being replicated at a plurality of sites, comprising  
3                 the steps of:  
4                 (a) associating a first flavor with a first site, said first flavor describing the table as  
5                     having both the first column and the second column;  
6                 (b) after associating the first flavor with the first site, adding the second column to  
7                     a first ~~copy~~ version of the table at the first site, so that the first ~~copy~~  
8                     version of the table contains both the first column and the second column;

- 9 (c) associating a second flavor with the second site, said second flavor describing  
10 the table as having the second column but not the first column;  
11 (d) after associating the second flavor with the second site, dropping the first  
12 column and adding the second column to a second copy version of the  
13 table at the second site;  
14 (e) after dropping the column and adding the second column to the second copy  
15 version of the table at the second site, associating the second flavor with  
16 the first site and dropping the first column from the first copy version of  
17 the table at the first site; and  
18 (f) maintaining replication activities while performing steps (a), (b), (c), (d), and  
19 (e) such that records stored in the first copy version of the table at said  
20 first site are replicated from said first site to said second site while said  
21 first copy version of the table and said second copy version of the table  
22 maintain a different set of columns for the table.

- 1 10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the step of maintaining  
2 replication activities includes the steps of:  
3 transmitting change data that identifies changes made to the first copy version of  
4 the table from the first site to the second site; and  
5 updating the second copy version of the table at the second site based on  
6 overlapping columns between the first flavor and the second flavor.

- 1 11. (Currently amended) A method of propagating changes to a data container,  
2 comprising ~~the steps of:~~  
3 ~~maintaining a first copy of the data container at a first site;~~  
4 maintaining a second copy version of the data container at a second site;  
5 ~~transmitting~~ receiving, at the second site, from a first site maintaining a first  
6 version of the data container, change data that identifies changes made to  
7 the first copy version of the data container ~~from the first site to the second~~  
8 ~~site;~~ and

9            updating, at the second site, the second ~~copy~~ version of the data container ~~at the~~  
10            ~~second site~~ based on the change data to create an updated second copy of  
11            the table;  
12            wherein the first copy of the data container and the updated second copy of the  
13            data container have at least one non-overlapping data field both before and  
14            after the step of updating.

1            12-15. (Cancelled).

1            16.    (Currently amended) A tangible computer-readable storage medium ~~carrying~~  
2            storing one or more sequences of instructions for propagating changes to a table,  
3            wherein execution of the one or more sequences of instructions by one or more  
4            processors causes:  
5            ~~maintaining a first copy of the table at a first site;~~  
6            maintaining a second ~~copy~~ version of the table at a second site;  
7            ~~transmitting~~ receiving, at the second site, from a first site maintaining a first  
8            version of the table, change data that identifies changes made to the first  
9            ~~copy version~~ of the table ~~from the first site to the second site~~; and  
10            updating, at the second site, the second ~~copy~~ version of the table ~~at the second site~~  
11            based on the change data to create an updated second ~~copy~~ version of the  
12            table,  
13            wherein at least one of the first copy version of the table and the updated second  
14            ~~copy version~~ of the table have at least one non-overlapping relational  
15            database column both before and after the step of updating.

1            17.    (Currently amended) The tangible computer-readable storage medium of claim  
2            16, wherein the non-overlapping relational database column is present in the first  
3            ~~copy version~~ and missing in the updated second ~~copy version~~.

1            18.    (Currently amended) The tangible computer-readable storage medium of claim  
2            16, wherein the non-overlapping relational database column is missing in the first  
3            ~~copy version~~ and present in the updated second ~~copy version~~.

- 1           19.   (Currently amended) The tangible computer-readable storage medium of claim  
2                   16, further comprising the step of reconciling differences in the column shape of  
3                   the first ~~copy~~ version and the column shape of the second ~~copy~~ version for  
4                   changes identified in the change data.
- 1           20.   (Currently amended) The tangible computer-readable storage medium of claim  
2                   16, further comprising the step of defining a top flavor describing overlapping  
3                   relational database columns and non-overlapping relational database columns of  
4                   the table.
- 1           21.   (Currently amended) The tangible computer-readable storage medium of claim  
2                   20, further comprising the steps of:  
3                   defining a first flavor describing the columns of the first ~~copy~~ version; and  
4                   ~~transmitting receiving, at the second site, from the first site,~~ an indicator of the  
5                   first flavor ~~from the first site to the second site~~.
- 1           22.   (Currently amended) The tangible computer-readable storage medium of claim  
2                   20, further comprising the steps of:  
3                   defining a second flavor describing the columns of the second ~~copy~~ version; and  
4                   wherein the step of updating, at the second site, the second ~~copy~~ version of the  
5                   table ~~at the second site~~ based on the change data includes the step of  
6                   updating overlapping columns between the first flavor and the second  
7                   flavor in the second ~~copy~~ version of the table.
- 1           23.   (Currently amended) The tangible computer-readable storage medium of claim  
2                   16, wherein execution of the one or more sequences of instructions further causes:  
3                   ~~the step of maintaining a first copy of the table at a first site includes the step of~~  
4                   maintaining an updatable snapshot at a laptop computer site, wherein [[;  
5                   and]]  
6                   the step of maintaining the [[a]] second ~~copy~~ version of the table at [[a]] the  
7                   second site includes the step of maintaining a master table at a master site.

1           24.   (Currently amended) A tangible computer-readable storage medium ~~carrying~~  
2           storing one or more sequences of instructions for modifying a table to drop a first  
3           column and add a second column, said table being replicated at a plurality of sites,  
4           wherein execution of the one or more sequences of instructions by one or more  
5           processors causes:

6           (a) associating a first flavor with a first site, said first flavor describing the table as  
7                 having both the first column and the second column;

8           (b) after associating the first flavor with the first site, adding the second column to  
9                 a first copy of the table at the first site, so that the first ~~copy~~ version of the  
10           table contains both the first column and the second column;

11          (c) associating a second flavor ~~for~~ with the second site, said second flavor  
12                 describing the table as having the second column but not the first column;

13          (d) after associating the second flavor with the second site, dropping the first  
14                 column and adding the second column to a second ~~copy~~ version of the  
15           table at the second site;

16          (e) after dropping the column and adding the second column to the second ~~copy~~  
17                 version of the table at the second site, associating the second flavor with  
18                 the first site and dropping the first column from the first ~~copy~~ version of  
19           the table at the first site; and

20          (f) maintaining replication activities while performing steps (a), (b), (c), (d), and  
21                 (e) such that records stored in the first ~~copy~~ version of the table at said  
22                 first site are replicated from said first site to said second site while said  
23                 first ~~copy~~ version of the table and said second ~~copy~~ version of the table  
24           maintain a different set of columns for the table.

1           25.   (Currently amended) The tangible computer-readable storage medium of claim  
2           24, wherein the step of maintaining replication activities includes the steps of:  
3           transmitting change data that identifies changes made to the first ~~copy~~ version of  
4           the table from the first site to the second site; and  
5           updating the second ~~copy~~ version of the table at the second site based on  
6           overlapping columns between the first flavor and the second flavor.

1           26.   (Currently amended) A tangible computer-readable storage medium ~~carrying~~  
2           storing one or more sequences of instructions for propagating changes to a data  
3           container, wherein execution of the one or more sequences of instructions by one  
4           or more processors causes:  
5           ~~maintaining a first copy of the data container at a first site;~~  
6           maintaining a second ~~copy~~ version of the data container at a second site;  
7           ~~transmitting~~ receiving, at the second site, from a first site maintaining a first  
8                   version of the data container, change data that identifies changes made to  
9                   the first ~~copy~~ version of the data container ~~from the first site to the second~~  
10                  site; and  
11           updating, at the second site, the second copy version of the data container ~~at the~~  
12                  ~~second site~~ based on the change data to create an updated second copy of  
13                  the table;  
14           wherein the first ~~copy~~ version of the data container and the updated second ~~copy~~  
15                  version of the data container have at least one non-overlapping data field  
16                  both before and after the step of updating.